

ANGLO AB-ORIGINAL

Sleighing Song,

A BURLESQUE.

IN FIVE CANTERS.

ANGLO AB-ORIGINAL
SLEIGHING SONG,

In Five Canfers.

WRITTEN *AFTER* LONGFELLOW.

AIR--HIGHWAYTHERE.

DEDICATED TO THE MARSHALS AND THEIR NEIGH-BORS.



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ANGLO AB-ORIGINAL,

WRITTEN *AFTER*

LONGFELLOW'S HIGHWAY THERE.



CANT(O)ER I.

Come, ye Northmen, hear the story,
Trial sleighing Epic hear ye.
Earth's white blanket, snow, had fallen,
Winter's solstice hung in Heaven:
Down the hills of Hammonasset.
Smoothly slipped the sleds, boy-freighted,
And to ease the limbs, when jaded,
Horse to sleds was shortly added.
Westward soon the train band wandered,
Till Guilford boys looked on and wondered.

II.

Ancient pride could not be smothered,
Joining pride with ride, they gathered
Sleighs, old sleighs and new, in number
Heretofore hosts far exceeding.
Western people, eyes wide opened,
Saw the lengthened train approaching.
Came they, went they,—not to conquer.

III.

Bows once bent by Hammonasset,
Or warriors on the Aigicomac,
Sped a straightened arrow faster,
And redoubling, sent it quicker,
Than those of western Sachem's quiver.
When half way through the second moon,
Sol the snow clad earth was searching;
Icy pond and hooded river
Cloaked their faces from his sight,
Groves held upward to their giver,
Frosted fruit on silver branches,
Nature tossed her diamond bracelet,
Toward the sport of rival sleighing.
High noon saw the horses driven,
Till the center of the township
Madison, with mirth was vocal.
Clinton's sons add on a column,
Till the long line, now twice doubled,
Sees the lengthy line still length'ning,
Sees ten, three score, a hundred sleighs,
To Menunketuc all traveling.
Then their horses ran and cantered,
With their gay and streaming banners,
With their sleighs on tripping runners;
On they sped, crossed Aigicomac,
Came to Old hill, windy Clapboard;
Wound upon its lofty summit.
Two score horsemen now had met them,
Waiting saw, and looking waited,
Till old Tempus hurried forward.
Horses galloped, jumped, and ran,
Till the foremost sleigh they headed.
Through Menunketuc they led them,
Round about the village took them,

Brought them to the Green, now whitened.
 People watched them, marked their bearing,
 Asked them kindly whence they came from,
 Spoke of eastern lands and sunrise,
 Laughing shouted, bade them welcome:
 "Welcome to thee, Sebequanash,
 And to Hull, named Ashbel, next thee,
 And to Webb, called Reynold, Doctor,
 That you've done is done and well done."
 Home to Hammonasset hied they,
 Hull, and Webb, and Sebequanash.

IV.

Then Menunketuc rose quickly,
 Then outspoke chief Quesaquanash,
 "Eastern tribes shall not o'ercome us,
 Rouse the hunters, bring your kindred,
 To their country let us hasten,
 And, outnumbering, teach them this,
 Where our strength lies and our prowess."
 Then together came their forces,
 Came their men and women, horses:
 When in line,—their chief surveyed them,
 Saw the horsemen with their dresses,
 Saw the joyous, lovely daughters,
 On the pillions riding after,
 Saw the Elephantine monster,
 Saw Town Mill with grist and hopper,
 Saw the Maine Law represented,
 Saw the chaise with inmates seated.
 Marshals called he round about him,
 Bid them ride their steeds right nobly,
 Took his calumet and smoked it,
 Wound his wampum round about him;
 From the Westward quickly started,
 Crossed East River, Aigicomac,

Came to lands of Sebequanash,
Came to lands of Hammonasset,
Came to where the horsemen met them,
Came with colors proudly floating,
Came with cutters, sleighs and jumpers,
Strong two hundred fifty, numbered,
Crossed the plains of Hammonasset.
Sons of Hammonasset met them,
Sons of Sebaquanash met them,
Joyfully did all receive them,
Waved their banners proudly o'er them,
Cheered behind, around, before them.
Then homeward went Menunketuc,
And westward went Quesaquanash;
Looked Menunketuc most lordly,
Smoked Quesaquanash most proudly.

V.

Now, throughout all Hammonasset,
To Menunketesuc river,
Where dwelt Pachangs, Quahang diggers,
E'en almost to Mattabesett,
Rose the men of stalwart measure,
Rose the lads of noble figure,
Called the heroes all together,
Called little chieftain Pettipang,
Called from woodland, plain and river;
All the people came together.
On the Great Chief's Birth-Day was it.
Tall bird Shanghai, loudly crowing,
Note of warning gave to turn out,
Oozing steam from steamer "Persia,"
Drums and cymbals, horn and trumpet,
Each announced the long procession.
Up, around, down, through, and after,
Sleighs three hundred fifty, numbered,

Ran their rude and model runners,
 Likeness of the great chief Father,
 Swayed above them like a sceptre,
 Daniels' last not latest rode by,
 Buzy son of Crispin, Daniels
 With his awl, thread, wax and hammer,
 Followed close by sled of butcher,
 Ox upon it, fell by sleighing,
 Thine the hide be, ours the meat be,
 Wheel to spin flax, man to dress it,
 Sled with pole in Coons upon it,
 Stuffed outrider strapped on horseback,
 Saddlebags and monstrous trunk rack,
 Men with masks and men in costume,
 Men clothed quaintly, primly, grandly.
 Hearing this chief Qesaquanash,
 Called Shaumpishuh and old Totoket,
 Carroughood and Wesaucucke.
 Told Montewese and Momauguin,
 Told those on shores of Quonnepaug,
 Told those on shores of Pestipaug.
 Each with totem borne above him,
 Representing tribe and Sachem,
 Hosts of lookers on assembled.
 Sleighs with jovial, joyful brothers,
 Sleighs with queenly beauty's daughters,
 Sleighs with joyous, happy mothers,
 Sleighs with talking, sturdy fathers,
 To Menunketue drove swiftly.
 "Tribes of Hammonassett, Welcome!"
 Sang the girls of Shaumpishuh.
 All their showy colors blended,
 Waved their welcomes oft and often,
 Old bell hammers rang their loudest,
 Drums rolled music, horns blew merry,
 Cheers met spreading flaring bonnet,

Cheers tipped goosewings hung upon it,
 Cheers met men while huge hats jostled,
 Cheers met girls 'mong green boughs nestled,
 Cheers rose on cheers and cheers went back,
 Southwest breezes blessings wafted,
 Numerous words of gentle measure
 Made the pleasant scene delightful.

Day of days long to be thought of,
 Golden fretted skies closed o'er thee,
 Pleasing memories hang about thee,
 Mind shall grasp thy glories often,
 As the "Marvelous story teller,"
 As the sober staid free thinker,
 As Historic prosy writers
 Turn the pages of Hereafter.

NOTES.

Hammonasset,—Territory between Guilford and Connecticut river.

Sebequanash,—Sachem of the Hammonassetts.

Menunketue,—Guilford.

Shaumpishuh,—Sachem squaw of Menunketue.

Quesaquanash,—Chief in Menunketue.

Carroughood and Wesaucucke—Chief men in Menunketue.

Montewese,—Sachem of the Quinnipiacs, whose territory included New Haven, East Haven and Branford.

Momauguin,—Chief of the Quinnipiacs.

Mattabessett,—Middletown, and territory southward to Hammonasset.

Pouchoug,—Westbrook.

Pettipaug,—petty Chief of Hammonasset, near Essex.

Totoket,—North Branford.

Aigieomae, Menunketesuc, and Hammonasset,—Rivers in towns of Madison, Clinton, and Westbrook.

Quonnepaug and Pestipaug,—Lakes in Quinnipiac territory.

Quahaug,—Clam.

Totem,—Family Coat of Arms.

